[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [25th January 1949

in Madras of all the potato growers from the various parts of the Province that they decided that they must ask Government to help them to market potatoes and also levy a cess so that the proceeds of the cess may be devoted to the improvement of potato crop by investigating into the diseases of that crop. I happened to be the chairman of that conference and I explained to them the position of Government. So it is not fair to say that this is a food question. Potatoes are still there and we can lay our hands on it when we want; so there is no case for confusion of issues."

The motion was put to vote and carried.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—

' *that the Bill be passed into law* '."

The motion was put and carried.

5 p.m. **VIII.—THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING (TEMPORARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL, 1948 (L.A. BILL No. 2 OF 1949).**

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' *that the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill*[a] 1948 (*L.A. Bill No.* 2 *of* 1949) *as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

Section 9 (1) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, provides for the continuance in force of certain orders made under the Defence of India Rules and published in the Official Gazette. The expression ' Official Gazette ' means only the *Gazette of India* or the Gazette of the Province and does not include a District Gazette. Certain orders were made under the Defence of India Rules by District Collectors and were published only in the District Gazettes. Doubts have arisen whether these orders can be regarded as having been continued in force by section 9 (1). The Bill seeks to amend that section with retrospective effect from the commencement of the main Act so as to make the validity of those orders beyond doubt.

" Control on eggs has now been removed. Therefore the Bill seeks to omit the entry relating to ' Eggs ' in the Schedule to the main Act."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' that the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1949) as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.' "

---

[a] **Printed as Appendix V on page 917 infra.**

25th January 1949]

Dr. V. K. John :—" This Bill is a warning to the Government that they must be very careful in drafting the Bills that they introduce in the Legislature."

The motion was carried.

Clauses 2, 3 and 1 and the Preamble were put and carried one by one.

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan :—" I move—

' *that the Bill be passed into law* '."

Mr. President :—" The question is—

' that the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1949) be passed into law.' "

The motion was carried.

IX.—THE MADRAS AGRICULTURISTS' RELIEF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1949 (L.A. BILL No. 3 OF 1949).

Mr. President :—" This is a very small Bill."

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao :—" This is not a very small Bill, Sir."

Mr. President :—" To-morrow is a non-official day. I want the few hours of sitting to-morrow to be devoted to non-official work. If the hon. Members co-operate with me, we can finish this Bill."

The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon :—" Sir, this is a non-controversial Bill and it was welcomed by the Members in the other House. I move—

' *that the Madras Agriculturists' Relief (Amendment) Bill*[a], 1949 (*L.A. Bill No.* 3 *of* 1949) *as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

When we moved a comprehensive list of amendments to the Agriculturists Relief Act, this was really an omission. Section 13 of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, provides for the scaling down of all interest due on any debt incurred by an agriculturist after the commencement of that Act, so as not to exceed a sum calculated at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent per annum simple interest. This rate has subsequently been altered by the Government into $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. As the definition of ' debt ' in section 3 of the Act does not include rent, the interest on arrears of rents due from an agriculturist cannot be scaled down. The courts have awarded decrees at the contract rate of interest on arrears of rent, which is in some cases as much as 24 to 48 per cent. The Bill seeks to extend the rate of interest applicable to debts to the arrears of rent also."

---

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 917–918 infra.